

An Essay.  
on the  
Disease of the Teeth.

Respectfully Submitted  
to the Faculty of the  
Homoeopathic Medical College  
of Pennsylvania

By

Arthur J. Griffith  
of Philadelphia  
Pennsylvania.

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Gentlemen

There are not many diseases that are more prevalent in all seasons of the year than those arising from the teeth. And they are generally of such a character that require the advice or skill of the physician.

And as those organs are of so much importance to the healthy maintenance of all the organs in the economy of man, And add so much to the personal appearances of the individual; that we think a few words as to some of their diseases and the mode of cure will be fully appreciated.

There are many.



Diseases which effects those beautiful organs, which causes their removal almost imperative, And in many cases they are removed when they were not the cause of the disease, but giving pain through sympathy of the nervous system.

There are many diseases that are remote from those organs which have their origin in them, and therefore must be examined in order to learn the difficulty. And when our attention are called to them we should make a careful examination of all; for the pain may be felt in one of the superior ones, while the cause is located in one of the inferior; and

An insisor may be very painful and pass through all the stages of inflammation to suppuration; while the cause is located in one of the posterior teeth. And the dentes sapientiae are more liable to give rise to this kind of inflammation to the insisors than any other of the dental organs.

I recollect a case of a gentleman who was suffering with a painful abscess of the ear, which had occurred at different periods for four years, and no relief could be given him only in large doses of Morphia until the abscess discharged, when he would gain his usual good health; at the time that I seen him he applied to a dentist for the purpose



of having the right superior lateral incisor removed, as it was giving him great pain, and it commenced about the same time that the pain in his ear; but upon examination the tooth was found to be in a healthy state and the dentist therefore refused to remove it, and as the pain was very severe in ear and also the tooth led the dentist to suspect that some of the other organs were the cause of this trouble; and in making a careful examination of them, he found that tapping with the handle of his instrument the second superior right molar that it caused an aggravation of the pain in his ear, which seemed to form some connection with this tooth,

and as the tooth had been filled  
some five years previous, the dentist  
supposed that the pulp had become  
diseased and was the cause of the  
difficulty, and when once expressed  
by him, the patient insisted upon  
its removal, which ~~was~~ immediately  
done, and upon examination the pulp  
was found dead and fetid, while a  
quantity of matter was discharged  
and the pain in the ear and lateral  
insides gradually subsided, and he  
has had no return of the disease  
in his ear since which is now over  
four years. And I have no doubt that  
had this disease been treated with our  
remedies ~~from~~ the first appearance of  
the inflammation, the tooth would have



useful, and performed all the functions of mastication, and had the pulp been removed after it became diseased, and then filled with good gold foil, it would be retained in the mouth as long as any of the other organs.

Another case of disease which arose from a tooth, was a large tumor in the throat, which caused great inconvenience in deglutition, and at times was very painful, it was situated immediately behind the tonsil gland, and it was also enlarged and painful, he had the tonsil extirpated and the enlargement went away with lunar caustic; but would soon reappear, and it was thus treated by a medical gentleman

for some two years without any good  
results, At the time that I saw it  
he was suffering with it and a small  
hard painless swelling at the ~~inferior~~  
posterior angle of the inferior Maxilla  
and he had applied to a dentist for  
the purpose of having his teeth examined  
to see if they could in any way be  
implicated in producing this last  
named swelling, and upon examination  
it was ascertained that the third in-  
ferior molar was the cause of the difficulty.  
Although it was not much decayed  
but it gave pain by striking with  
an instrument, and it was therefore  
removed, and as in the other case  
the pulp was dead, and a small  
hard substance was attached to the



root, which had caused absorption  
of the root for the distance of an eighth  
of an inch, After its removal the  
tumor on the angle of the jaw passed  
away, and in the space of a few  
months his throat was free of pain  
and is now entirely well.

The teeth very frequently  
give pain, and become very much diseased  
and if removed without a careful  
examination we would not be able  
to give that relief which should follow  
their removal, and in our examination  
we should be careful to ascertain if  
any disease of some other organ may  
not be the cause of the pain complained  
of in the tooth, As in the case of  
a lady who applied to me to have the

first superior left Molar extracted  
as it had given her very much  
pain for some six or eight days, and  
was then so sore that she could not  
touch it without giving pain, and  
it was so sensitive that cool air  
and cold drinks effected it, and  
it had been filled about a year  
previous she thought that that was  
the cause, as the nerve had been  
destroyed with arsenious acid and  
removed and then filled, she was  
then in her seventh month of ~~her~~  
pregnancy, <sup>and</sup> she was fearful to have  
it removed, <sup>but</sup> was determined to  
have the offending member out;  
but on examination of the tooth  
I found ~~it~~ filled and in good condition



and I refused to extract it, and in  
place assured her that the pain  
could be removed without taking with  
it the tooth, so it is always best to  
try and save those organs, and fail, than  
not to try at all, ~~so~~ I gave her Cocculus  
and Sepia in alternation which removed  
the pain and the sensation in the space  
of six or eight hours, and the steel  
retains the tooth with the use as  
any of the others, and it remains in  
a healthy condition.

With these two remedies in  
such cases of painful teeth I have never  
failed in removing, But I do not  
always use them in alternation, I cured  
a painful toothache which the lady had  
been suffering for over a month with

Opiu, and when it relieves without  
entirely removing the pain, I follow  
with Cocculus or give it in alternation

There are many teeth which  
are very sensitive, and causes much  
pain in filling, and the mechanical  
irritation induced in filling them will  
often produce inflammation of the root  
which if not arrested in its first  
stages will go on to suppuration  
and destroy the living pulp, and produce  
a fistulous opening through the alveolar  
process. which cannot be cured until  
the dead pulp is removed and its  
place filled with pure gold, when  
the inflammation is first felt Arnica  
may be given and should it not prove  
sufficient Belladonna or Mer; Sol,



should follow if indicated, with these three medicines I have never failed in removing this severe suffering which the patient would have to suffer or else have the organ removed, which should not be done, for all teeth that have crowns sufficient to retain a filling can be rendered healthy and useful with proper treatment.

A gentleman applied to me to have the first superior right molar extracted as it had caused him so much pain that he had no rest for the two nights previous, I examined the tooth and found it sound and healthy and refused to comply with his request, and as he was suffering with a small red looking boil upon

the cheek immediately below the malar bone, and I suspected it to be the cause of the difficulty, and as he complained of a throbbing pain in the tooth I gave him Belladonna to take every three hours until I heard from him the next day, telling him to cease taking the medicine when the pain in his tooth left, and when I seen him on the following day the toothache was gone and the boil was nearly gone, so much so that there was no pain in it, and was entirely gone in a few days.

Merry of the neuralgic pains which are confined to the fifth pair of nerves either have their origin in the teeth, or else the teeth become



effected by this operation, and we  
should look well to the cause and  
place where the seat of the affection  
is or else we will not be able  
to give the necessary relief; and may  
through our ignorance remove the  
teeth without affording the patient  
but momentary relief, and will  
mostly aggravate the symptoms. A  
lady who had been under treatment  
of the old school for more than a  
year for neuralgia, of the left side  
of the face and neck without  
experiencing any cessation from  
her suffering, and her physician  
telling her that the disease could  
not be cured without the removal  
of her teeth extracted; which

she consented to do, and applied  
to me for that purpose, I examined  
her mouth and found ~~but~~ one  
decayed tooth, and that was a  
small stump of the second bicu-  
pid. which I told her was not the  
cause of the difficulty, But being  
advised by her medical friend that  
her teeth must be removed before she  
could receive any benefit from medicine  
nothing would satisfy her but the removal  
of some of them, and as the stump  
was of no use to her I removed  
it; telling her to call again to have  
some of the others taken out, But  
on the next day she applied to me  
again, saying that the pain was  
much worse, and she must now



have them out so that she might  
receive some cessation of ~~suffering~~  
I made an other minute exam-  
ination and I found them all in  
a healthy condition, and aspired  
to remove them which she did not  
willingly receive, saying that if I did  
not others would, I then remarked  
to her that I thought that I could  
remove the difficulty in a few days  
if she would place herself under  
my care, which she at first refused  
remarking that a dentist did not  
know how to treat such a case  
so well as her physician, I remarked  
that it was out of my sphere, yet  
I did not like to see people suffering  
when I had the means to relieve them

After consulting with the friend  
that came with her she consented to  
go according to my advice, I gave  
her a few probers of Aconite, which  
gave her ease in twenty-four hours  
and remained much better through  
the day and when night came, or she  
laid down to sleep it recurred, with  
beating and throbbing sensation, I  
followed the Aconite with belladonna  
and in less than three weeks, she  
was free from pain, and has not felt  
the least symptoms of its recurrence  
since which is now over ten months.

Thus I might go on adding case  
to case which has come under my  
notice in the three last years of practice  
which I treated all diseases by the

Homoeopathic law of cure that  
come within my practice, and with  
the most signal success.